

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

REF: A) STATE 042239; B) STATE 068001; C) STATE 064026;

D) PRAGUE A-121 OF AUGUST 30, 1973

1. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT CONTAINS EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF TWO ONGOING UNDP PROJECTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA--THE COMPUTING RESEARCH CENTER IN BRATISLAVA AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL ALSO LOCATED IN BRATISLAVA--PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN REFTEL (A). ON BALANCE, OUR EVALUATION OF THESE PROJECTS IS NOT POSITIVE AND, AS IN PAST YEARS, WE AGAIN URGE THAT US REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDP SPECIAL SESSION MAKE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AWARE OF USG'S DISSATISFACTION.

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END SUMMARY.

1. THIS REPORT IS KEYED TO QUESTIONS AND TOPICS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF REFERENCE (A). UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS ON UNDP PROJECTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTAINED IN EMBASSY'S PREVIOUS REPORT (REF D) REMAIN VALID, AND FORM PART OF BASIS FOR OUR ABOVE RECOMMENDATION.

2. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM--PARA 5(A):
THERE IS NO UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF NOR DOES IT MAKE USE OF CREDIT AND LOAN FACILITIES OF IBRD. WE ARE INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT UNICEF WILL RECEIVE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKS APPROXIMATELY 250,000 CZECH CROWNS (\$25,000 AT TOURIST EXCHANGE RATE) WORTH OF TOYS (MONTHLY CHILDREN'S SCOOTERS, TRICYCLES, ETC.) AS PART OF UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE. FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT HAS COOPERATED WITH UNDP IN CONDUCTING SHORT COURSES ON DIESEL ENGINES FOR TECHNICIANS FROM LDC'S. ACCORDING TO RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICER, CZECHS HOPE TO CONTINUE THESE COURSES IN 1974 AND FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE-PARA 5(B): ASIDE FROM TWO CURRENT UNDP PROJECTS UNDER DIRECTION OF RESIDENT UNDP PROJECT MANAGERS, EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BEING CONDUCTED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY INTERNAL OR WESTERN AID DONORS. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, SEVERAL COOPERATIVE TECHNICAL AID SCHEMES IN PROGRESS UNDER AUSPICES OF CEMA IN FURTHERANCE OF CEMA COMPLEX PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION; FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. NOT MUCH IS KNOWN AS TO MECHANISM WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT FOR COORDINATING AND DOVETAILING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS UNDER CEMA PROGRAM WITH THOSE SPONSORED BY UNDP. GIVEN RELATIVELY SMALL MAGNITUDE OF UNDP PROJECTS, HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT QUESTION OF COORDINATING THESE WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL CEMA PROJECTS IS HANDLED WITHIN EXISTING GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND DID NOT REQUIRE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ORGAN OR BODY TO CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION. KEY MINISTRY FOR APPROVING AND EVALUATING ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT(FMTID), WHICH WORKS THROUGH MFA TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION SECTION IN DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

4. WE REGRET TO SAY THAT ANNUAL CALL OF EMBOFF IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR ON UN COMPUTING RESEARCH CENTER (CRC) IN BRATISLAVA, FOR PURPOSE OF REVIEWING CENTER'S OPERATIONS

OVER PAST YEAR AND ITS PLANS FOR FUTURE, WAS MARKED BY
THINLY VEILED SUSPICION ON PART OF CENTER'S ADMINISTRATORS
AS TO REASONS FOR VISIT, RESULTING IN CHILLY RECEPTION AND
GUARDED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. DESPITE FACT VISIT AND
REASONS THERFOR HAD BEEN ARRANGED (NOT WITHOUT SOME
DIFFICULTY) THROUGH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CRC
OFFICIALS POINTEDLY QUESTIONED THEIR VISITOR AS TO PURPOSE OF

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